

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1957

MEMORANDUM TO: The Honorable Sherman Adams

After the visit of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, you asked me to give consideration to, and subsequently write, a memorandum on the repeated requests from Negro leaders that the President confer with them on the many domestic problems plaguing the race at this time. Specifically, over a period of more than a year, A. Philip Randolph and Reverend Martin Luther King have made representation to the White House for an audience with the President.

*no record
sent to files
as of 6/10/57*

XGFG-Q X2

I can state categorically that the rank and file of Negroes in the country feel that the President has deserted them in their current fight to achieve first-class citizenship via Civil Rights legislation, etc. Despite the unprecedented record of this Administration in the field of human rights, Negroes are so emotionally involved in this struggle that they are unable to estimate what gains have been made. I can understand this feeling, and it is only because I am a staff member of the Administration and have been an eye witness to its efforts that I can look at these protests objectively rather than emotionally.

*XOF-102-B-3
XOF 99-2
XOF 101-Y*

There is tremendous unrest in the country among the Negro population. Tensions are great, emotions are at a high pitch, and the time is approaching when peaceful resistance and oratory may give way to efforts not conducive to the welfare of our country. I feel the time is ripe for the President to see two or three outstanding Negro leaders, and to let them get off their chests the